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REDRUTH URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Medical Officer's Report

FOR THE YEAR 1913.

REDRUTH :

H. J. WILDMAN, PRINTER, BACK LANE WEST.

REDRUTH URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Medical Officer's Report.

FOR THE YEAR 1913.

Population, 1913—10,815. Area of Acres—4,037.

During the year 1913, the births of 265 children—133 males and 132 females,—and the deaths of 180 persons—89 males and 91 females,—were registered.

The birth rate is therefore 24.6, and the death rate 16.6, but making allowance for transferable births and deaths, the corrected birth rate is 24.5, and the corrected death rate 15.9.

For comparison, I append a list of the birth and death rates for the past ten years.

Birth rate for past ten years :

1904	...	21.2
1905	...	24.6
1906	...	24.7
1907	...	22.2
1908	...	24.8
1909	...	24.8
1910	...	24.0
1911	...	22.7
1912	...	23.6
1913	...	24.5

Death rate for past ten years :

1904	...	15.7
1905	...	15.1
1906	...	16.5
1907	...	18.6
1908	...	13.0
1909	...	18.2
1910	...	14.1
1911	...	20.6
1912	...	17.4
1913	...	15.9

THE DEATHS.

Phthisis	...	24	Ear Disease	...	0
Bronchitis	...	13	Diabetes	...	1
Heart Disease	...	29	ZYMOTIC—		
Cancer...	...	8	Typhoid Fever	...	1
Inquests	...	11	Continued Fever	...	0
Pneumonia	...	5	Diphtheria	...	3
Pleurisy	...	1	Whooping Cough	...	1
Cirrhosis of Liver		1	Scarlet Fever	...	0
Suicide	...	1	Influenza	...	0
Premature Births		4	Measles	...	0
Apoplexy	...	13	Erysipelas...	...	0
Convulsions	...	5	Polio myelitis	...	0
Bright's Disease...		8	Diarrhœa	...	1
Meningitis	...	4	Cerebro-spinal meningitis		1

Death rate under one year old per thousand births, 71.

Zymotic death rate per thousand population, 0.55.

FEVER.

Ten cases of Enteric Fever notified during the year, a much larger number than we have had for very many years. One death. The cases occurred at various parts of district ; in two instances two cases in the same house, beginning simultaneously, showing they contracted the disease from the same source, and one did not catch it from the other. I have carefully inquired into all the cases, and absolutely failed to explain the origin of the illness in any case. Full preventive precautions were taken, and no one nursing the invalids contracted the disease. The one that died did not consult a doctor until far on in the illness. He was removed to the Isolation Hospital, but soon succumbed.

SCARLET FEVER.

Thirty-two cases notified. No death. We have been having, in company with neighbouring districts, an epidemic since the beginning of the year. Moderately severe type.

INFLUENZA.

No death. Not very prevalent during the year. Very few serious illnesses.

MEASLES.

Few cases in early part of year, continuing on from 1912. No death. None during last nine months.

CANCER.

Deaths from Cancer during last ten years :

1904	...	10	1909	...	11
1905	...	8	1910	...	10
1906	...	24	1911	...	8
1907	...	11	1912	...	6
1908	...	7	1913	...	8

Four of the deaths male ; four female.

PHTHISIS.

Deaths from Phthisis and " South African Phthisis " for the last ten years :

Total number of deaths from Phthisis :			South African Phthisis :		
1904	...	20	...	...	9
1905	...	22	...	...	17
1906	...	25	...	...	11
1907	...	24	...	...	14
1908	...	15	...	...	6
1909	...	21	...	...	11
1910	...	10	...	...	3
1911	...	18	...	...	3
1912	...	23	...	...	5
1913	...	24	...	...	6

The death rate from " South African Phthisis " still favourable.

Thirty-four cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the year : ten between the ages of 15 and 25 ; twenty-four between 25 and 45. . All have had explained to them the infectiousness of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, mainly through the medium of the expectoration, and have been advised to strictly use spittoons and have them daily disinfected, and isolation from other members of the family has been attended to as much as possible. I consider these precautions are now carried out more efficiently than at any previous period, the public getting to fully realise the terrible infectiousness of this disease.

No Sanatorium or Hospital accommodation in Urban District for early, intermediate, or advanced cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

HEART DISEASE.

Twenty-nine deaths. No less than 20 were over 70 years of age, and so death was really due to senile degeneration of heart muscle and not to active valvular disease.

PNEUMONIA.

Five deaths. Two under 2 years, one age 34, and the other two over 65 years of age.

BRONCHITIS.

Thirteen deaths. Only one under 1 year, none other under 55, while nine were over 65 years of age.

APOPLEXY.

Thirteen deaths. Two between 50 and 60 ; seven over 70. Age producing degenerated diseased vessels of brain, which then snap under very slight extra strain.

BRIGHT'S DISEASE.

Eight deaths.

NOTIFICATIONS.

Eighty-nine notifications. Scarlet Fever, 32 ; Erysipelas, 3 ; Diphtheria, 7 ; Phthisis. 34 ; other forms of Tuberculosis, 3 ; Enteric Fever, 10.

INQUESTS.

Eleven.

1	Suicide by hanging	...	55 years	...	female
2	Burns	...	4	"	"
3	Injuries	...	29	"	male
4	Fractured Base	...	34	"	"
5	Syncope	...	46	"	"
6	Fractured Base	...	40	"	"
7	Syncope	...	56	"	female
8	Syncope	...	36	"	"
9	Injuries	...	53	"	male
10	Suffocation	...	19	"	"
11	Spinal Injury	...	17	"	"

DIARRHŒA.

One death from Gastric Enteritis in a child 12 months old, so there was a complete absence of any Epidemic Summer Diarrhœa as in 1912, and strongly contrasting with 25 deaths in 1911.

DIPHTHERIA.

Seven notifications. Three deaths. Mostly of a very severe type. Antitoxin used freely. Death rate high in spite of the antitoxin, and probably if we had no antitoxin, as in former years, the death rate would be appalling under the then recognised treatment. Of vital importance that the doctor should be summoned at the very earliest moment to get the antitoxin administered.

WHOOPING COUGH.

One death ; 8 months old. Few cases in district.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Isolation Hospital at West Tolgus, containing 24 beds. When empty is under the care of a caretaker, and is always ready to receive any infectious case. A trained nurse from one of the neighbouring homes is summoned and is there when the case arrives. Four different infectious diseases can be treated at one time at the Hospital.

One case sent from the Redruth Urban District during 1913.

In the grounds of the Isolation Hospital there is a modern disinfecting chamber, which is frequently being used.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are six in the District, all registered, and regularly inspected, well kept, and conforming to Byelaws.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSE.

One Lodging-house at East End, registered and inspected. No infectious disease notified during the year.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILK-SHOPS.

All Dairies registered, inspected and found clean and conforming to Byelaws. No complaint received or known about the milk during the year. Very large proportion of milk comes into Urban District daily from farms in the Rural District. No action taken as to tuberculosis milk.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Fourteen ; thirteen registered ; one licensed. They are kept in good order, clean, and comply with Byelaws.

The inspection of meat is done by the Medical Officer and the Inspector of Nuisances, the latter has no special certificate in meat inspection. Visits are not paid during times of slaughtering. I pay visits to the Meat Market, and especially inspect if I receive notice from the Inspector, or have reason to think I shall find meat unfit for food. During 1913 I have not had any report of unsatisfactory food. I have made sundry visits to the Market and found all satisfactory.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

No offensive trade carried on in the District, and there has not been any death or disease traceable to lead, arsenic, or phosphorus poisoning.

In Balmoral Terrace, a nuisance was reported, the Inspector went there and found in one of the houses fat boiling; the offender was proceeded against and fined, and the offensive trade stopped.

WATER SUPPLY.

Quality good. Sufficient constant supply to all parts of District.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

I paid visits to and inspected all the Schools during the year.

REDRUTH STATION.

I have inspected the sanitary arrangements, and found them in good order. No complaint.

SANITATION.

Number of houses	...	...	2765
Number of fresh and waste water closets			1255
Number of privies with fixed receptacles			1578
Houses supplied with water		...	2164

Number of conversions from privies to water closets during the years 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913 :—32, 16, 23, 20, 23, 38.

The Council permit the erection of sanitary conveniences other than water closets in new buildings in the outlying districts.

During 1913—Private Closets built	...	83
Privies, Ashpits, new	...	5
Privies converted to Water Closets		38
Houses supplied with water	...	131
New houses certified...	...	31
Houses connected with sewer...		56
Earth closets	... ..	0

Penventon Terrace. New water closet.

Dopp's Terrace. Two new water closets connected with sewer; new stoneware gully.

Sea View Terrace. New water closet connected with sewer; privy demolished.

Southgate Street. Two new water closets and two new stoneware yard gullies connected with sewer; two privies demolished.

West End. Two new water closets and connections.

Albany Road. Three new water closets and connections; privy demolished; new stoneware yard gully.

Foundry Row. New water closet connected to sewer.

Coach Lane. New drain laid and connected with sewer.

Trefusis Terrace. New water closet connected; privy demolished.

Fore Street. Two new drains laid and connected with sewer.

Basset Street. New water closet ; two connections to sewer.

Buller's Terrace. New drain laid and connected.

Riverside. New drains laid and connected to sewer.

Cardrew Terrace. New water closet and connection.

North Street. Two new water closets ; two privies demolished.

St. Day Road. Two new water closets ; privies demolished.

East End. New water closet ; privy demolished ; new gully.

Falmouth Road. 29 new water closets ; new drains to 22 houses ; 4 water closets repaired and made sanitary ; 34 new stoneware yard gullies ; 25 privies demolished ; 1 privy repaired : 2 privies disconnected from leat.

Basset Road. Privy reconstructed.

Shuffley. Nuisance from overcrowded van abated.

Jenkin's Terrace. Two new water closets and drains repaired.

Chapel Street. Six new stoneware gullies provided and fixed ; drains repaired.

SEWAGE FARM.

Excrement disposal by drains to sewage farm at Tolgus. During 1913 no complaint of any nuisance.

The Redruth Urban and Rural Councils have formed a Joint Committee to consider the drainage disposal and take it to the sea. Have had various meetings during the year, and preliminary investigations are in progress.

The Council carry out the scavenging.

THE HOUSING TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

During the year, 177 houses have been inspected under this Act. There were 657 inmates, averaging 3.71 per house, all had adequate water supply, connected with town service. In 64 instances the closet accommodation consisted mostly of long hopper pans, and in four cases they had no flush ; they were clean and in good order.

Two houses had no sanitary accommodation whatever, but water closets have since been provided.

Eighty-three out of the 177 had D traps in the yards ; 57 modern stoneware gullies ; D traps generally unsatisfactory and broken, most have now been replaced by stoneware gullies ; some yards repaved and cleaned up.

Arrangements for removing refuse by pan or box in each case. In eleven yards there were not any gullies.

Twenty-five houses no back door nor back window.

A Committee of the Council are still considering the provision of more house accommodation for artisans and labourers at a reasonable rental ; two or three schemes considered, but voted not satisfactory.

Number of dwelling houses inspected under and for the purposes of the Housing Town Planning Act :—177, making altogether 311.

Number of dwelling houses which were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation :—Defects found in 51 houses, but not of a very serious character.

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which representations were made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of closing orders :—None.

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were made by the Local Authority :—None.

Number of dwelling houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders :—49.

Number of houses which after the making of closing orders were made fit for human habitation :—None.

General character of the defects found to exist in the dwelling houses inspected :—Defective D traps ; dirty dilapidated privies ; dirty unpaved yards ; leakages from roofs ; want of eaves gutters and rain-water pipes : walls requiring pointing to stop damp, &c.

ACTS ADOPTED IN THE DISTRICT.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (Part III).

The Private Street Works Act, 1892.

The Public Libraries Act, 1892.

New Byelaws passed in 1904 which relate to New Streets and Buildings, Slaughter Houses, Cleaning of Footways, Removal of Refuse, Common Lodging Houses, Dairies and Cowsheds.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

Factories and Workshops have been regularly inspected. They are all kept clean and ventilated. Sanitary conveniences in all cases satisfactory. No complaints. Means of escape from fire in accordance with the Act.

The half-yearly lists of out-workers are systematically collected, and where they live outside the Redruth Urban District, returns are made by the adjoining District. No infectious disease reported.

FRANK HICHENS,

M.D., M.B., B.S. (LOND.), D.P.H. (ENG.), M.R.C.S., L.S.A.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

